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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,555	05/26/2006	Reinhold Eichhorn	02894-728US1 06609-PT2/co	6680
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EXAMINER				
LEE, LAURA MICHELLE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3724				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/06/2011		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/552,555

**Applicant(s)**

EICHHORN ET AL.

**Examiner**

LAURA M. LEE

**Art Unit**

3724

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-7, 9, 10 and 12-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 5-7, 13-14, 16-17, 20-22, 25-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 4, 9, 10, 12-15, 18-19, 23, 24, 30-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 10/29/2010 in which claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, 12-32 are pending, and claims 3, 5-7, 13-14, 16-17, 20-22, 25-29 are withdrawn.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 2, fourth paragraph, filed 10/29/210, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1,4,9, 10,12,15,18,19,23,24,30-32 under Saito have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Braun in view of Somers and in further view of Chang.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braun(U.S. Patent 5,614,030) in view of Somers et al. (U.S. Patent 3,283,185) and further view of Chang (U.S. Patent 5,321,349). In regards to claims 1, 12, 18 and 23

Braun discloses an electric shaver system comprising a dry shaving apparatus (2) including a shaving head (3); and a cleaning and charging station (5) defining a receiving arrangement for receiving the dry shaving apparatus; wherein the dry shaving apparatus includes a first connector (contact means of the shaving apparatus not numbered; col. 4, lines 54-62) configured to couple with an associated connector (12) for the cleaning and charging station to transmit charging energy (supplying current) and control signals (i.e. establishing contact with; col. 4, lines 53-56) between the apparatus and station while the apparatus is received in the station.

Braun does not disclose wherein the dry shaving apparatus includes an additional connector, spaced from the first connector and configured to couple the dry shaving apparatus for receiving charging energy with the dry shaving apparatus removed from the cleaning and charging station. However, attention is directed to the Somers reference. Somers discloses a battery operated electric shaver having a socket portion on the side of the electric shaver with prongs for receiving a cord adapted to be detachably connected therewith and to a 110-volt electric supply current of the convention form found in most buildings (i.e. a wall outlet). Somers discloses that the electric shaver batteries can be recharged by a direct connection to a wall outlet instead of requiring a charging station such as shown by Braun. Attention is also directed to the Chang reference. Chang discloses a rechargeable/portable DC power supply. The rechargeable battery can be situated within a housing for engaging with the re-energizing source or can be directly connected to the powering source. Chang discloses providing the rechargeable battery with a plurality of sockets to be mated with different

plugs on different electrical applications. Braun and Sommers therefore teach that it is known in the prior art to locate power sockets on electric shavers at several locations with the purpose of at least recharging the rechargeable battery with a variety of power sources. Chang alternatively teaches providing a plurality of sockets on the same power supply body for similarly providing for various means of recharging the internal battery. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the socket locations as shown by Braun and Somers onto a single electric shaver/body as taught by Chang to increase the number of ways and stations that the electric shaver could be employed with to recharge the internal rechargeable battery, especially as both locations were already known in the prior art, and thereby the shaver could be charged directly without the use of the cleaner apparatus. Commercially, this allows for the electric shaver to be more marketable, being useable with various charging stands and not necessarily only the one being supplied with the cleaning device. Thus, the Braun electric shaver would not necessarily need to be sold only with the Braun cleaning device to be able to recharge the battery, but other less complex charging stations would also be possible.

In regards to claims 4, 15, and 24, the modified device of Braun discloses wherein the additional connector (Somers) is an electrical plug type connection.

In regards to claim 9 and 19, the modified device of Braun discloses wherein the first connector is arranged in close proximity to the shaving head and the additional connector is arranged on an end of the dry shaving apparatus at a remote distance from the shaving head.

In regards to claim 10, the modified device of Braun discloses wherein the plug type connection comprises an appliance socket (Somers111).

In regards to claim 30, the modified device of Braun discloses wherein the first connector is configured to transmit charging energy (supplying current), control signals (shaving apparatus can be set in operation) and information (i.e. establishing contact with; col. 4, lines 53-56) between the dry shaving apparatus and the cleaning and charging station while the dry shaving apparatus is received in the cleaning and charging station.

5. Claims 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braun (U.S. Patent 5,614,030) in view of Somers et al. (U.S. Patent 3,283,185) and further view of Chang (U.S. Patent 5,321,349) and in further view of Daniels (U.S. Patent 3,710,224). The modified device of Braun does not disclose that the same power cord that powers the cleaning and charging station can be used for powering the dry shaving apparatus. However, attention is directed to the Daniels reference which discloses a shaver with rechargeable batteries. Daniels discloses that the batteries can be re-energized by a power pack (14) which plugs into the shaver or alternatively into a stand which supports the shaver. The power pack is connected by a power cord into a standard wall outlet. Thus Daniels teaches that is well known to use the same power supply to supply power directly to the apparatus or directly to the stand with the same end result of recharging the batteries of the shaver. It similarly would have been obvious to have designed the shaver of Braun to accept the same power plug as used

to power the cleaning and charging station to minimize the needed accessories to recharge the batteries in the various configurations.

6. Claims 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braun (U.S. Patent 5,614,030) in view of Somers et al. (U.S. Patent 3,283,185) and further view of Chang (U.S. Patent 5,321,349) and in further view of Hoser et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0069902), herein referred to as Hoser. The modified device of Braun discloses wherein the cleaning and charging station is configured to vertically receive the shaving head of the dry shaving apparatus in an open trough void of obstructions. Braun discloses the claimed invention except that the trough is defined in part by a rear wall arranged to support the dry shaving apparatus in a leaning position, such that coupling of the first connector of the dry shaving apparatus with the associated connector of the cleaning and charging station is maintained by weight of the dry shaving apparatus leaning against the rear wall. However, attention is further directed to the Hoser apparatus. Hoser discloses another cleaning and charging station for a razor as similarly shown by Braun. However, instead of the wall being completely vertical, Hoser discloses providing the rear wall at an angle to help support the weight of the shaver. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have similarly modified the Braun trough to have an angled supporting wall as shown by Hoser for the same benefits of reducing the strain on the electrical connections.

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAURA M. LEE whose telephone number is (571)272-8339. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on (571) 272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laura M Lee/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3724  
1/03/2010